(b) if so, the details of persons proposed to be appointed thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint any person of non-administrative background as Member of the Commission; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are two streams of members: official and non-official. Since non-official members represent the farmers' interests administrative background is not an essential qualification in such cases. Presently, there is a vacancy of a non-official member.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Milk in Bihar

3632. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to seek Central and World Bank assistance for raising the milk production in Bihar to bridge the gap between demand and supply of milk in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government of India is assisting the Government of Bihar Under the Integrated Dairy Development Programme in non Operation Flood, Hilly and backward areas for raising the milk production in Bihar so as to progressively cover the gap between demand and supply.

[English]

Oilseeds Production

3633. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is apprehension that the production of seven major oilseeds for the current season may decline;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline as compared to that last year record crop production and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the various measures being taken to raise the oilseeds production and to cut down the import of oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. The estimated production for seven major edible oilseeds is 127.0 lakh tonnes against the target of 124.0 lakh tonnes fixed for the current Kharif season 1996-97 and it is also estimated that the production target of 95.0 lakh tonnes fixed for Rabi 1996-97 will be achieved in full.

(b) The production of seven edible Kharif oilseeds has been estimated at 127.0 lakh tonnes during 1996-97 which is higher in comparison to the production achieved (120.1 lakh tonnes) during Kharif 1995-96.

(c) to raise the Oilseeds Production and to cut down import the Government is implementing Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) covering 337 districts in 22 States in he country. The financial assistance is provided for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, farmers' training, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised in farmers' field to transfer the production technology.

Organic Farming

3634. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers of the country are discarding chemical based farming as the same is degrading the land and adopting organic farming;

(b) whether the Government are promoting organic farming;

(c) if so, the measures taken in this direction;

(d) the funds allotted for the organic farming during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the funds utilized so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). In order to keep the use of chemical fertilisers within reasonable limits, the concept of balanced nutrient management is being propagated through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely (i) A Centraly Sponsored Scheme on. Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers, (ii) National Project on Development and use of Fertilisers in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas and (iii) National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilisers.

ICAR is promoting organic farming through all India Coordinated Research Programmes on Biological